



County Administrative Office
Governmental & Legislative Affairs

Josh Candelaria
Director

February 28, 2020

The Honorable Lorena Gonzalez
California State Assembly
State Capitol
Sacramento, California 95814

RE: AB 2367 (Gonzalez) – As Introduced February 28, 2020 - SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Gonzalez:

The County of San Bernardino is pleased to support AB 2367, which would establish the Wildfire Resilience Taskforce to develop community and home hardening standards. The legislation will require an admitted insurer to write or renew property insurance for an existing property that is determined to have met the standards established by the Taskforce.

According to the National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC) in 2019, California experienced approximately 46,706 wildfires throughout the state, emphasizing the need for a new approach to standardize prevention and mitigation of fire risk. Community mitigation and home hardening reduce the risks of wildfire, however homeowners and communities are unlikely to make mitigation investments if there is no consistent standard or any assurance of getting a homeowners insurance policy once hardening measures are in place. With the state experiencing drier seasons, increasing the risk of fires occurring a new approach is necessary to provide coverage for homeowners to protect their properties that can lead to the reduction of property damage and mitigate wildfire spread throughout the state.

Under this program, individual homeowners would have an option to collaborate with a WUI specialist who inspects a home and gives homeowners a checklist of risk-reduction improvements. Once an inspector verifies home hardening actions are complete, the program will issue a certificate. Then, insurers agree to write and renew a homeowner's policy for the certified hardened property. Across the state comprehensive approach to home hardening is necessary to reduce and mitigate wildfire.

For the reasons listed above, the County supports AB 2367. If you have any questions regarding the County's position, please contact Josh Candelaria, Governmental and Legislative Director, at 909 387-4821 or jcandelaria@sbcounty.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Curt Hagman".

Curt Hagman
Fourth District Supervisor
Chairman, Board of Supervisors

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Janice Rutherford".

Janice Rutherford
Second District Supervisor
Board of Supervisors

cc: San Bernardino County Legislative Delegation

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